

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3298
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2006
RENEWAL OF BOOKSTALL CONTRACTS
Chakraborty Shri Ajay

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Bookstall Policy, 2004 is being followed in the Railways ;
- (b) if so, the reasons for not renewing all the contracts of bookstalls held by a number of unemployed graduates;
- (c) whether the licence fee has been enhanced ;
- (d) if so, the details and the reasons therefor ;
- (e) whether the enhanced licence fee is being recovered from the bookstalls held by the unemployed graduates; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) & (b): A comprehensive bookstall policy was issued in October 2004, which was quashed by the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad. The judgement of the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad has been challenged before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the matter is subjudice. As a consequence, status quo is being maintained and no renewal to book stall licencees is being granted.

(c) to (f): The licence fee of bookstalls on Indian Railways was rationalized in order to bring it at par with other catering/vending licencees at station premises/platforms and also to increase the earnings from bookstall/trolleys, in 2006. As per these instructions, the licence fee for different categories of bookstalls, except bookstalls allotted to philanthropic and social organizations, has been enhanced to 12 % of annual sales turnover subject to category wise prescribed minimum licence fee. The above enhancement has been done without prejudice to the outcome of the Court cases. Zonal Railways have accordingly been advised to realise the revised licence fee and Railways are following these instructions.